

THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Publishers

Published Every Thursday Afternoon at Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION WHEN PAID IN ADVANCE

One copy, one year, \$1.50
 One copy, three months, .50c
 One copy, six months, .75c
 Outside of State, one year, \$2.00

ADVERTISING RATES

For advertising rates apply for schedule. Notices of church and lodge socials and entertainments where admission is charged, regular advertising rates. Obituary notices, 15c words free, over that, one cent per word. All obituary poetry, one cent per word. Classified ads, one cent per word each issue, with a minimum price of 25 cents, cash in advance; stamps accepted.

The Record is entered at the postoffice at Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the mail as second-class matter.

PRESIDENT HARDING WAS RIGHT

It is generally conceded now that the president was right when he refused to become a party to the Genoa Conference, on the ground that it was a political and not an economic meeting. This country cannot afford to be mixed up in European politics. We have a large sized job on our hands to run our own affairs, and put our own country back onto a sound and sane economical basis.

Farsightedness in American diplomacy was never more impressively illustrated than in the refusal of President Harding to send a representative of the United States to the Genoa Conference. It will be remembered that as a principal reason for not sending a delegate President Harding declared that the conference was to be political and not economic. In pursuance of the traditional policy of the United States of not engaging in European political entanglements he held that the people of this country desired no representation at the Genoa Conference.

Scarcely had the conference organized before this statement of President Harding was fully proven to be absolutely accurate. Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky came the disclosure of a treaty between Soviet Russia and Germany, political in its purpose and apparently designed to make trouble for all the other nations participating in the conference. According to all press reports, delegates from the other principal nations were stunned by the disclosure and doubts are expressed whether it will be possible to accomplish anything whatever at subsequent deliberations.

Whatever may be the outcome of the situation presented by the agreement entered into by Germany and Russia, it is readily to be seen that the United States has no proper place in the Genoa Conference. Undoubtedly the problems of Europe need solution. Certain it is that there can be no great progress or reconstruction in Central and Eastern Europe until there has been reached a basis of understanding which will insure each of the nations against aggression by the others and permit them to disband their military organizations, discontinue their military expenditures and concentrate their resources upon restoration of the industries of peace. This international assurance is primarily a political problem that must be worked out by the spokesmen of the different governments directly concerned. Only in a very remote degree is the United States interested in the political relationships between the different nations of Europe. Its interest is not so direct as to justify this country in becoming a party to the negotiations or agreements by which European differences are settled.

This country stands ready now, as it always has, to give friendly assistance to other nations in the settlement of their differences, if they see fit, by mutual consent, to ask for such assistance and receive it in a friendly way. As a matter of fact the U. S. has given more for the aid of the poor in other nations than all the European nations put together. If the United States were represented at Genoa it would be a party to every controversy and would find itself arrayed against one group or another and arousing antagonisms which would make it impossible to be a factor in the promotion of peace. The quarrels are not ours, and however much we might desire to see them ended in order that prosperity and happiness may be restored in Europe, there is no possibility of our being able to assist by becoming a party. Our first duty is to put our own house thoroughly in order and thus by our example show other nations what they might well do themselves, and stand ready, if invited, to assist in compromising or otherwise ending differences in which we have no personal interest and which we could, therefore, assist in adjudicating with unprejudiced minds. There is no likelihood whatever that the United States will officiously volunteer suggestions. Neither will it refuse, if requested, to aid in the role of an impartial and well-wishing friend to all concerned.

WORK THE ROADS

Spring is upon us. Hundreds of thousands of miles of roadway need rebuilding or improving.

Countless thousands of honest American citizens are out of employment and begging for work with which to support their wives and children.

Motorists are annually paying into the public fund millions of dollars for road improvement.

The stage is all set, the audience is assembled, yet there are no actors to start the play. We Americans continue to sidestep the ruts or wallow in the muck of the poorest roads in Christendom. It is all wrong.

These idle men should be put to work on state and government improvements, and there is nothing more urgently needed today than hard surfaced roads.

It should be apparent to everyone that the money expended in the construction of roads is simply put into circulation and all are benefitted by it. When men have employment they spend the money they earn for the support of their families. What is paid for food goes to the farmer for produce, and is by him paid out to supply his needs, and money is kept on the move,—benefitting everyone.

IT LOOKS GOOD

Watch the bond market and you will get a fair indication of what the near future will bring us. For some time past the market has been strong. Buying has been heavy and prices have been kept well up. This means but one thing. People who have money are regaining confidence and are seeking means of investing it. The fellow with a few hundreds or thousands is taking it from its hiding place and is buying bonds. He is no longer pessimistic of the future. He sees increased commercial activity and consequent prosperity ahead, and he is right.

Every bond issue that is floated means more work for idle people. It means an expansion in business, an increased volume of trade, more money in circulation, and that money passing from hand to hand. Prosperity is the natural result. If you have any savings stowed away you are quite safe in bringing them out and putting them to work. The time for action is here.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Up," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

JUST KEPT GROWING

The origins of these antiquated, cumbersome, costly, inefficient pieces of the national machinery that we call the executive departments show how any establishment if well watered with government money will expand and hold together, no matter how conflicting and incongruous its functions. Hardly one of these great business establishments—for that is what they are—was planned. As they are today they just happened.

Take the Department of Agriculture, for example, one of the greatest and most complex and widespread of all the departments. It is in closer touch and more directly affects the greatest number of people in the United States than any other branch of the government with the possible exception of the post office. It began in 1839 with an appropriation of \$1,000, taken from the patent funds for the distribution of free seeds and the collection of agricultural statistics by the patent office, then a bureau in the State department. Now look at the durned thing. It is all over the place.

The title of the department indicates its most important field of activities, but its functions have been extended to include the whole range of rural industry and some branches of administration only very indirectly related to agricultural interests. For about 60 years subsequent to the Revolution the general interests of agriculture were left almost entirely to individual initiative. Federal activity was confined to relatively narrow limits and was merely sporadic. Soon after the national government was organized some attempts were made to establish a board of agriculture; but neither the first proposal in 1793 nor a second effort in 1817 was successful.

Shortly after the Revolution, following the example of Benjamin Franklin while in England, as agent of the colony of Pennsylvania during the years 1764 to 1775, American consuls and naval officers began the practice of sending home foreign seeds and cuttings for new crops, and of aiding in the introduction into the United States of new breeds of domestic animals. Even such small governmental participation was, in the beginning, rather extra-official.

In 1838 the commissioner of patents, one H. L. Ellsworth, began the distribution of considerable quantities of seeds and plants received from government representatives in foreign countries; and three years later through his influence an appropriation of \$1,000 was made for the purpose of procuring and distributing seeds of new plants, carrying agricultural investigations and collecting agricultural statistics. This was the historic beginning of the much-talked-about free seed distribution.

By an act of congress in May, 1862, since generally called the organic act, the activities of the government affecting agriculture were placed under a separate and distinct organization known as the Department of Agriculture, in charge of a commissioner of agriculture. It did not rank, however, with the other executive departments, and the commissioner was not entitled to a seat in the President's cabinet. Isaac Newton, chief of the agricultural section in the patent office, was appointed the first commissioner of agriculture. Other officers provided by the organic act included a statistician, a chemist, an entomologist and a superintendent of the propagating garden and experimental farm.

The chrysalis was now ready to be broken. In 1889 the Department of Agriculture was elevated to the rank of the other executive departments and its commissioner was made secretary of agriculture with a seat in the President's cabinet. This was in Grover Cleveland's administration. In honor of its new rank a few more functions were taken on.

But that's enough detail. It kept on growing. Beginning with an appropriation of \$1,000 and two or three clerks, the department had, in 1910, employees to the number of 12,480, and an appropriation of \$12,965,036. Five years later the appropriation had grown to \$19,865,882 and the employees to 16,225. The employees in May, 1920, numbered 18,098 and the appropriation given by congress for the fiscal year 1921 was \$31,475,368.

The department has increased its cost of living in 82 years from a mere \$1,000—that is, \$80.33 a month—to more than \$31,000,000 a year—\$2,622,547.38 every month. That shows as clearly and as sharply as it can be shown how the high cost of government living affects your own cost of living.

We, you and I, paid out of our savings and earnings every red cent of that increase from \$1,000 a year to more than \$31,000,000. It may have been well spent. We probably got a run for our money; but nobody knows, except in a general way. We have a right to know. It is simply fatheadedness on our part not to find out.

Not a Sale Event—But an exposition of Crisp, New Girls' Middies so practical for school wear that mothers will want two or three at the remarkable low prices which they can be bought. See the Midway Window display at D. W. Robinson, Alma.

FORDNEY JUMPED FROM CHORE BOY

RECORD HAS EXCLUSIVE STORY ON RISE OF "JOE" TO CONGRESSIONAL POWER.

"How wonderful it would be if, after having passed the half-way house, we could journey back to our childhood days and once more travel the path of life," mused Hon. Joseph Fordney, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, when caught by an interviewer recently in a reminiscent mood. "Mr. Fordney is of the outstanding types of Americanism who stood at the head of his class in the University of Hard Knocks. At 16 he was a poverty stricken chore boy in a lumber camp. At 65 he is Chairman of the most powerful committee in Congress, while his success in private life has been marked. Wealth and power have not changed him.

Joseph W. Fordney was born Nov. 5, 1853, the youngest of 13 children. His birth place was a log cabin 3 miles west of Hartford, Indiana, to which his parents had moved from Pennsylvania in 1848. Ways of communication were exceedingly crude in those days, libraries were unknown and school house few and far between. At the age of 13 young Fordney's schooling was limited to 3 months, only sufficient to learn the alphabet, but having learned it, like Lincoln he read omnivorously before the fitful blaze of the hearth, and the Lincolnian purity of his diction is proof that he read well.

In June, 1869, the family moved to Saginaw, Michigan, where his home has since been. His mother died the following year. Meanwhile young Fordney had taken a job in a logging camp as aid-de-camp to the cook—peeling potatoes, washing dishes, bringing wood and water, and waiting on the jacks. He kept his eye on his boss to such good advantage that the following season, and for the three successive seasons he was a cook himself at from \$20 to \$50 a month. During those early days in the lumber woods, I saw the value of the magnificent pine timber then growing in the forests and I had a great desire to own some of it," said Mr. Fordney. "The very choicest stands of pine timber were offered in those days at a price as low as \$1.25 an acre." In his fourth season, knowing little of mathematics or the rudiments of surveying, he became helper to a timber estimator, or "land looker" as they were called. He made an intensive study of this work and since his mind was unlogged with impractical knowledge his specialization in timber was accelerated so that he soon attracted the attention of the great timber men of the Northwest and he was continuously employed in estimating in various parts of the country. With a few dollars saved, he induced a group of timber men to join him in purchasing large tracts in Michigan. Operations gradually extended to Mississippi, Louisiana, California, and Washington. The Fordney interests today do not manufacture lumber, but purchase lands and sell logs to surrounding mills. The annual output in Washington alone is estimated at 200,000,000 board feet a season.

"I look back to the days of my boyhood, when I used to visit the city and envy the young men behind the counter in the dry-goods or grocery store," said Mr. Fordney. "If the opportunity had presented itself, perhaps I would have followed the occupation of a merchant; as it was, I was forced into such occupations as I could obtain and fill. Life in the woods was a rough and tumble, hard knock life, and I became a post-graduate in that school." If Fordney had become a merchant he would undoubtedly have become a merchant prince, since he had the driving power and shrewdness and honesty to succeed in any line of business. Would he, like certain department store magnates have now been working for free trade? Probably not. He is too essentially American. The interviewer looked at Mr. Fordney's hat as he went out. Yes, it was "made in America." Fordney used to call the late Ebenezer Hill "Mr. Danbury Hats" and Hill would retort with "Mr. Canadian Logs." Two great cronies, and both self-made men.

RELICS! WHAT DJA MEAN

A contemporary in telling about his community going to eastern time for the summer says, "The whole scheme is a relic of the war and we will not get back to complete normalcy until we adopt permanently Eastern Standard time, Central standard time, or go back to God's time so that it will be noon when the sun is on the meridian."

We take it that our contemporary knows the war is over when he talks about eastern time being a relic of the war, but it must have slipped his mind that the time belts were adopted long before that time to avoid the confusion that was always so evident when each community was operating on sun time, it being noon at each place when the sun was on the meridian, and every town having a different time than that of its neighbor a few miles east or west.

Ladies, get a box of the Social Size Hammermill Bond Stationery, 250 sheets of paper with the same number of envelopes at the Record office.—advertisement

With Our State Contemporaries

IMPORTING TROUBLE

In the North American Review, Dr. Arthur Sweeney calls attention to a most serious phase of our immigration problem. He declares that as a result of our previous negligence in the selection of immigrants we have populated this country with hordes of the unfit, who are not adaptable to our requirements of citizenship. The census of 1920 reveals that out of a total white population of 94,800,000, the number born in foreign countries was 13,700,000. If we apply to the latter number the ratings as to intelligence found by the psychological test in the army, 14.3 per cent of foreign born being in Deming's class the number would be 2,029,000. Among the 30.1 per cent rated as class D there would be 3,927,000, bringing the total number of the two classes, who are rated as having a mental age of 11 years or less, to 5,957,000.

"We are being swamped with the offscourings of Europe," writes Dr. Sweeney. "Those at the lower end of the intellectual scale have brought to us their social customs, their language, their political ideas. They cannot become citizens in the highest meaning of that word. They cannot enter into the spirit of American life. They add little, but numbers to the body politic. They add to the burdens of state and municipality and render more difficult and complex the administration of law and order."

Although we need the intelligent and the industrious immigrant, Dr. Sweeney reminds us that we do not need the ignorant, the mentally feeble, the moron. We already suffer from the presence of too many whose low mentality leads them into pauperism, crime, sex offenses and degeneracy. It is not enough to guard against the physically defective. We must recognize that the more imminent danger is from the mentally feeble.

As to our commendable attempts at Americanization of the foreigner, Dr. Sweeney says this does not work out in a wholly satisfactory manner. He writes: "It can hardly be more than 50 per cent successful, because only half of the immigrants have intelligence enough to receive the education which we wish to give them. When we realize that by reason of their mental limitations one-half of them cannot progress beyond the fifth grade in our elementary schools, how optimistic should we become over the prospect of teaching them civics, patriotism, or the wise use of the franchise?"

Under conditions it is well that congress has decided to continue for two years the 3 per cent limit on immigration. It is time we ceased to be a dumping ground for Europe's undesirable. We have troubles enough of our own without importing others with our eyes open.

—Grand Rapids News

Advertise your wants in The Record.

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress
 President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary, \$15,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150.00 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$260,400 in all. (Subject to change.)
 Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary, \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.
 Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett, Mass., salary, \$12,000. The 54 Senators are 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra 10 cents a mile each way, each session, based on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,000 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,811 population.
 Party Division in 67th Congress: House 36 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 26 Rep., 2 Dem.
 U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truma H. Newberry.
 Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet
 Arranged in order of presidential succession:
 Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y. Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harri M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denbo Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex. Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.
The Supreme Court
 Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$27,000. Associate Justices, salary \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.) Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. J. Brandeis, Ohio (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.)

Michigan Government
 Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$2,000. Lieut. Gov., Thomas Read, salary, \$800.00. Secretary of State, Charles J. Beland, salary, \$2,000.00. State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00. Auditor Gen., Oran H. Fuller, salary, \$2,500.00. Atty Gen., Martin Wiley, salary, \$2,000.00. Sup. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$1,600.00. State Highway Comm. Frank J. Rogers, salary, \$1,500.00. Senate of District, Aaron Amos, salary, \$800.00. Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00. Supreme Court Justice, salary, \$1,000.00. Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard West, Grant Fellows, John E. Geo. M. Clark, John E. Birk Nelson Sharp.

County Officers
 Circuit Judge, Edward J. Moinet, salary, \$3,000.00. Judge of Probate, James E. Kross, salary, \$1,800.00. Sheriff, A. T. Weller, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernie Case, salary, \$1,500.00. Treas., Sidney Fovey, salary, \$1,500.00. Prom. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,000.00. Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600.00; Circuit Court Com., Archi McCall, Wm. A. Bahlke, fees; Drain Com. Ezra Laywell, salary, \$1,500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
 Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$3,000.00. City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Fred Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cresser, salary, \$2,000.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary, \$3,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary, \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Atty., Wm. A. Bahlke, salary, \$1,500.00. Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary, \$1,500.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Holman, salary, \$3.00 per day or actual time.

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is paid over 1,600,000 a year for his advice and forecast by the ablest business men in America."

THE ALMA RECORD

(Official Paper of County and City)

EXCLUSIVELY

quotes the authentic statements of Roger W. Babson on the business outlook in this country.

"The Business Man's Paper"



The first consideration of this bank is the safety of its depositors' money.

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A picture that starts the heart to thumping and gives old Father Time the laugh.

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Story and Scenario by Byron Morgan

Cast Includes

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